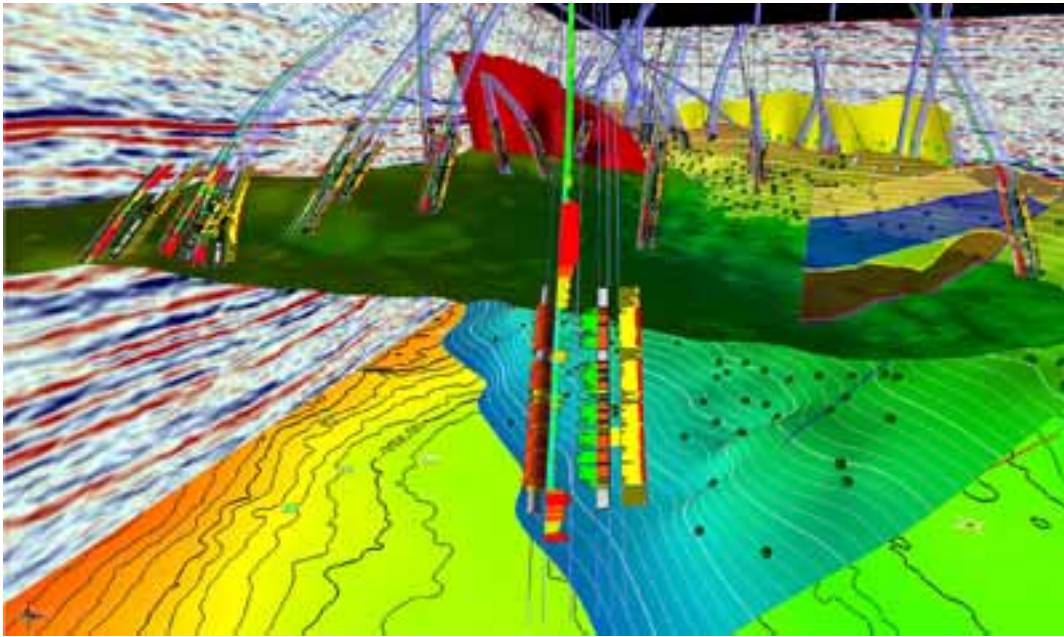


**European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE)
Annual Conference and Exhibition – Rome, June 2008**



Austin Geomodeling's Recon 3.0

In the R&D session that kicked-off the 70th European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers conference and exhibition¹, Prof. Patrick Corbett (Herriot Watt) commented on the declining interest from academia in both oil and gas R&D in general and in the EAGE. This is due to university funding turning increasingly to climate change and away from oil and gas – now considered rich enough to fund its own research.

ExxonMobil prides itself on its ‘consistency’ in investment with long term funding somewhat decoupled from the oil price. BP’s approach has evolved from leaving R&D to the contractors to the selection of flagship areas investment – such as wide azimuth seismics. Speakers concurred however that specific R&D workshops backed by EAGE and other have failed to spark much interest or follow-up from attendees.

A full session investigated and proselytized in favor of better geodesy in oil and gas – with contributions from the OGP Survey and Positioning Committee (formerly the EPSG) and the American Petroleum Survey Group – this announced the new geodetic parameter registry at www.epsg-registry.org developed by Galdos Systems.

The EAGE saw the ‘official’ release of Paradigm’s Skua interpretation system with its ‘depositionally correct’ gridding. The ‘Skua’ name refers to a sub polar bird that is said to feed on Petrels! Landmark was showing more from its well-endowed (\$13 million) joint venture with Statoil to plug the interpretation workflow gap between basin scale and prospect analysis. Landmark was also showing early results from the deployment of Geosmith’s ‘Shapes’ topology engine with ‘Framework to Fill’ seismic-less interpretation and model building in Geographix and a new ‘Earth Model’ product due for release next year. Schlumberger demonstrated ‘WYSIWIG’ geobody extraction and stream simulation from within Petrel, reinforcing its ‘seismic to simulation’ strap line. Results from a Schlumberger/Microsoft alliance were also on display – built around DecisionSpace and Microsoft SharePoint Server. dGB has embedded Wintershall’s common contour binning in its Open dTect seismic interpretation system – a technique for enhancing seismic direct hydrocarbon indicators. Justcroft International pre-announced its develop@work system for ‘talent management’ in oil and gas companies. Exprodat’s Team-GIS provides common risk segment mapping in ArcGIS for semi-automated play fairway analysis and acreage ranking.

On the hardware front, IBM, Fraunhofer and others were showing seismic processing on the Cell Broadband Engine (the chip used in the Sony Playstation) which promises significant speedup for some algorithms.

We spotted some intriguing papers on the use of semantic web techniques to build oil and gas ontologies for application in seismic visualization and geological knowledge, although these techniques seem to be having a tough time in expanding outside of academia so far.

¹ Conducted jointly with the Society of Petroleum Engineers’ EUROPEC conference.

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